

## Regional Analysis and Recommendations

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*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

—Margaret Mead



*The regional chapters provide a closer look at specific recommendations. Photo by USFS.*

Local and regional partners are the primary implementers of the *Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)*. Information received during two series of public meetings in the fall of 2005 and the fall of 2006 helped formulate recommendations. Local and regional input from planners, recreation professionals, nonprofit groups and planning district staff are also included in recommendations for each recreational planning region. This chapter examines the 21 recreational regions and evaluates outdoor recreation needs based on the 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey (VOS)* and 2005 *Outdoor Recreation Areas and Facilities Inventory*.

Each regional subsection includes an introductory description of the area. The regional resources are outlined within state program areas, such as trails and greenways, scenic resources, scenic rivers and scenic roads. The resources managed by federal agencies, state agencies and the private sector are identified, and recommendations are made to help meet conservation and outdoor recreation goals. The regional chapters also outline existing conservation lands and strategies to meet statewide conservation goals.



Walking and jogging are popular in all regions. A jogger at Pandapas pond near Blacksburg. Photo by USFS.

### Planning Regions

The 2007 *VOP* divides the Commonwealth into 21 outdoor recreational planning regions. These regions coincide in name, area, number and boundaries with existing planning district commissions (PDCs) shown on the ensuing table and map. For the purposes of this plan, when a jurisdiction is a member of multiple planning district commissions, one planning region is selected to avoid duplication of inventory data and resource recommendations. To that regard, Chesterfield County and Colonial Heights participate with both the Richmond Regional PDC and the Crater PDC. For the purposes of this plan, Chesterfield is shown in Region 15 (Richmond) and Colonial Heights is shown in Region 19 (Crater). Likewise, Surry County is involved in both Crater and Hampton Roads, but is shown in Region 19 (Crater) of this plan. Gloucester County participates in both Middle Peninsula PDC and Hampton Roads PDC, but is shown in Region 18 (Middle Peninsula) in this plan. Franklin County participates in both West Piedmont PDC and Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional PDC and is shown in Region 12 (West Piedmont).

### Outdoor Recreation

The foremost goal for outdoor recreation recommendations is for local, state and federal government to provide the appropriate number and venue of opportunities to enable the Commonwealth's population to enjoy Virginia's outdoors. Each recommendation is described and numbered in the regional narratives, with corresponding numbers located on the regional outdoor recreation maps. These maps show both existing and potential outdoor recreational facilities of regional, statewide or national significance.

Recommendations for local facilities are provided for each region based on percent participation of ranked outdoor recreation activities. The local government may expand upon these recommendations in local parks and recreation plans. Demand, supply and needs calculations for outdoor recreational activities and facilities are summarized by planning region. These findings are based on the 2006 *VOS* and the 2005 *Outdoor Recreation Areas and Facilities Inventory*. Detailed discussion of the development of the demand, supply and needs data can be found in Appendix D.

While a region may have a sufficient supply of recreation facilities, there may be deficiencies at the local level. The numbers of facilities is often not as important as the location of facilities in proximity to local populations. For many outdoor recreation activities, the 2006 VOS reported that participants are not willing to travel more than 10 to 15 minutes to participate (see Chapter II: Outdoor Recreation Issues Trends and Survey Findings).

For a comprehensive list of parks and recreation recommendations, see chapter IX-D: Local and Regional Parks and Open Spaces.

### Land Conservation

Success in meeting conservation goals depends upon local and regional efforts. Many organizations work together with local and regional governments to provide an array of land conservation tools. The land trusts that operate in each planning region are listed in each regional section.

The acreage of existing protected conservation lands included are listed and mapped by agency in the following categories.

- State or federal conservation lands
- Local and regional open space lands
- Conservation easements
- Designated historic districts and eligible historic districts

For a comprehensive list of land conservation recommendations see Chapter III: Land Conservation.

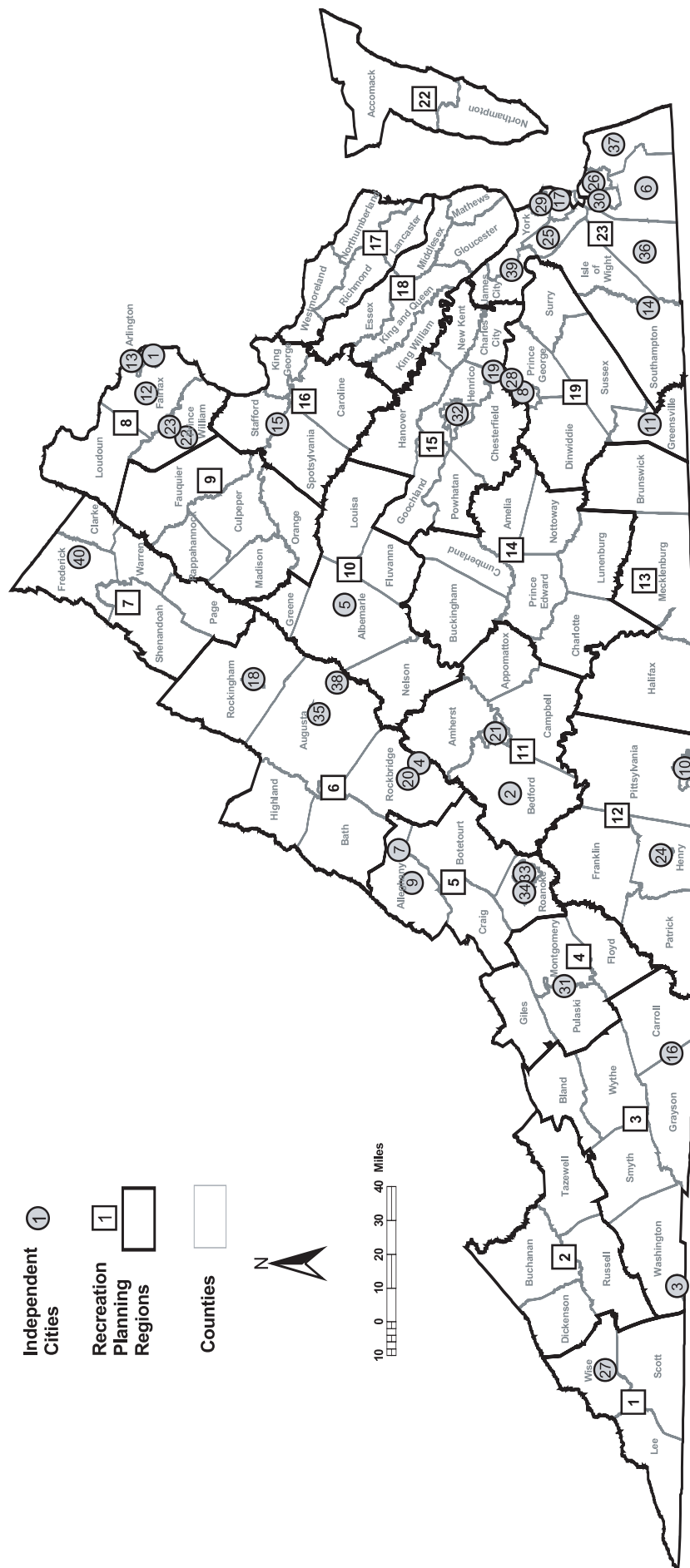
### Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure land planning strategically links linear corridors together to maximize environmental, ecological and human benefits. Preserving green infrastructure is cost effective and sustains natural resources, water quality and healthy communities. Green infrastructure planning at the local and regional levels is key to meeting the needs for outdoor recreation and land conservation. For a comprehensive list of green infrastructure recommendations see Chapter IV: Green Infrastructure.



Hikers enjoy the natural environment in Virginia's George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Photo by USFS.

**Map X-1. Recreational Planning Regions**



## Independent Cities

1. Alexandria
2. Bedford
3. Bristol
4. Buena Vista
5. Charlottesville
6. Chesapeake
7. Clifton Forge
8. Colonial Heights
9. Covington
10. Danville
11. Emporia
12. Fairfax
13. Falls Church
14. Franklin
15. Fredericksburg
16. Galax
17. Hampton
18. Harrisonburg
19. Hopewell
20. Lexington
21. Lynchburg
22. Manassas
23. Manassas Park
24. Martinsville
25. Newport News
26. Norfolk
27. Norton
28. Petersburg
29. Poquoson
30. Portsmouth
31. Radford
32. Richmond
33. Roanoke
34. Salem
35. Staunton
36. Suffolk
37. Virginia Beach
38. Waynesboro
39. Williamsburg
40. Winchester

## Recreation Planning Regions

1. Lenawisco
2. Cumberland Plateau
3. Mount Rogers
4. New River Valley
5. Roanoke Valley-Allegheny
6. Central Shenandoah
7. Northern Shenandoah Valley
8. Northern Virginia
9. Rappahannock-Rapidan
10. Thomas Jefferson
11. Region 2000
12. West Piedmont
13. Southside
14. Commonwealth Regional Council
15. Richmond Regional
16. George Washington Regional Commission
17. Northern Neck
18. Middle Peninsula
19. Crater
22. Accomac-Norhampton
23. Hampton Roads